

REMARKS

Claims 1-7, 9-13 and 15-19 remain in this application. Claim 16 has been amended. Claims 1, 11 and 16 are independent claims.

A. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant notes with appreciation that claims 1-7, 9-13 and 15 were deemed to be in an allowable condition. However, claims 16-19 were rejected. In response, independent claim 16 has been amended to include allowable subject matter from claim 11. Applicant respectfully asserts that the amended claim is in an allowable condition. Reconsideration of independent claim 16 and its dependent claims is respectfully requested.

B. Patentability of Claim 16

In the Office action dated December 3, 2004, claim 16 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 6,638,313 to Freeman et al. (hereinafter Freeman). The Office action cited Freeman (Fig. 1) as disclosing an arrangement of stacked images in which rearward images are partially covered by forward images and that the stacked images are "first-level images." Freeman is also cited as disclosing "second and third level images."

Applicant has amended claim 16 to describe a method of accessing stored image files by displaying a stack of thumbnail images in which regions of rearward thumbnail images are partially covered by forward thumbnail images. The thumbnail images are first-level images that are full-file displays of image information from the image files. The method also describes displaying a second-level image each time a user-manipulated indicator is positioned in perceived contact with an exposed region of the first-level image. The displayed second-level image is a full-file display of image information of the first-level image. Support for the amendment can be found on page 7, lines 1-4 and Fig. 3 of the application as originally filed. A stack 50 of first-level images 52, 54, 56, 58 and 60 is shown. Cursor 62 is in perceived contact with image 56, causing a second-level image 64 to be displayed.

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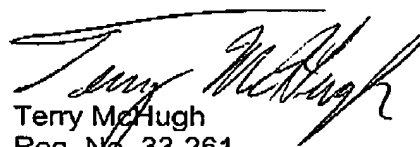
Applicant respectfully asserts that claim 16, as amended, is patentably distinguishable over Freeman. The "second-level image" of Freeman is not a full-file display of the first-level image, which is a full-file display of an image file. Instead, the second-level image is a "browse card." The browse card 100 as taught by Freeman (column 8, lines 3-15) is an abbreviated version of a document which has been compressed into a microdocument, like an index card. The browse card creation operation does header stripping, so that the browse card displays the first non-trivial words in a document. In another embodiment of Freeman, complex analysis may be done on the document, so that "most important" words, pictures, and/or sounds are presented. It is respectfully asserted that the browse card created by the above operations is not a full-file display of the image information of the first-level image. Freeman also teaches that a "second-level image" may be a calling card. Several examples of calling cards are presented in Freeman, however, none of the examples teaches each calling card in the stack is a full-file display of image information of a first-level image.

Furthermore, Applicant respectfully asserts that Freeman does not anticipate the combination of (1) a first-level image file that is a full-file display of image information from an image file, (2) a second-level image that is a full-file display of image information of the corresponding first-level image and (3) a third-level image that is displayed upon opening a stored image file that corresponds to the second-level image which was selected.

In conclusion, it is respectfully submitted that claim 16, as amended, is in an allowable condition. Reconsideration for claim 16 and its dependent claims is requested.

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the claims in view of the amendments and remarks made herein. A notice of allowance is earnestly solicited. In the case that any issues regarding this application can be resolved expeditiously via a telephone conversation, Applicant invites the Examiner to call Terry McHugh at (650) 969-8458.

Respectfully submitted,


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